



Indigenous Citizenship Declaration Policy

Frequently Asked Questions: Indigenous Students



Last Updated: August 12, 2026

UVic has introduced an Indigenous Citizenship Declaration (ICD) Policy. To access awards and other financial opportunities only for Indigenous Peoples, students will now be asked to provide additional supporting information that connects them with their Indigenous community. This is a one-time process that can be completed anytime (uvic.ca/ovpi/icd).

Supports and special considerations are available for Indigenous Students who may experience challenges in accessing information that links them with their community or family. All Indigenous students (regardless of having provided supporting information or not) are welcome to access Indigenous spaces, supports and services at UVic.

Q: What is the Indigenous Citizenship Declaration (ICD) Policy?

A: This policy affects how students apply for scholarships, awards, bursaries and opportunities intended for Indigenous People. To be eligible for these opportunities, you will be asked to share information that shows your connection or relationship with an Indigenous community. (Supports and special considerations are available to students who experience disconnection or challenging relationships with their Nation.) The information you share is confidential and used only to confirm your eligibility for Indigenous awards or other opportunities for which you apply.

Q: How have applications for awards and opportunities changed?

A: In the past, you might have self-identified as Indigenous on your application to the university or you might have applied for a scholarship or work-study placement that asked Indigenous People to self-identify. You may start to see new language on awards and other opportunities that will let you know that you need to provide supporting information to be eligible for that opportunity.

Q: How do I provide supporting information?

A: You can provide supporting information at anytime by using your NetlinkID to log into the ICD Application Portal (icdportal.uvic.ca). There, you can start your ICD Application and upload supporting information for review. In a few days, you will receive a notification confirming that you're eligible for Indigenous awards and opportunities. If there are any issues with your ICD application, a member of the OVPI team will reach out to you with next steps.

Please reach out to the student policy navigator, Carmin, if you'd like help with your application:
carminb@uvic.ca.





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Q: What opportunities are impacted by the ICD Policy?

A: All opportunities impacted by the ICD Policy will be advertised with language stating the eligibility requirements. Supporting information is required to access financial or professional opportunities intended for Indigenous Peoples. This includes: awards, scholarships, bursaries, work-study placements, and staff positions intended for Indigenous Peoples. You may be asked to provide supporting information to access designated on-campus housing and to access designated seats in select academic programs.

Q: I'm applying for multiple opportunities. Do I need to provide my supporting information each time?

A: No, you only need to upload your supporting information once through the ICD Portal. The university keeps a record of your application to confirm your eligibility for multiple or future Indigenous opportunities you might apply for while you're a UVic student.

Q: When can I provide supporting information?

A: If you anticipate ever applying for Indigenous scholarships or other financial opportunities, you are encouraged to start an ICD Application and upload supporting information as soon as you're able to. To avoid stressful situations, please don't wait until applications for opportunities are due to gather your supporting information and start your application. Our team also understands that sometimes tight deadlines are unavoidable: you can flag your ICD application as "urgent" if you find yourself in a tricky spot.

Q: How long will it take for the university to review ICD applications?

A: Typically, ICD Applications can be reviewed in 1-3 business days. However, ICD Applications that need special consideration or an extended review could take up to 4 weeks (depending on the nature of the application).

Q: What is happening to self-identification?

A: Self-identification alone will no longer be used to confirm your eligibility for awards, but self-identification is still a huge part of connecting with Indigenous communities and supports at UVic. If you self-identify as Indigenous, you are welcome to access Indigenous student supports, spaces and events at the First Peoples House and elsewhere on campus.

Q: I received an Indigenous scholarship (or other opportunity) last year. Do I need to provide supporting information to keep this?

A: No. Supporting information is only required to be eligible for new, future scholarships (or opportunities) you might apply for. The Policy is not retroactive and it would be unfair to change the requirements for scholarships (or opportunities) that have already been awarded.





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Q: What if I don't want to provide supporting information?

A: You can still identify as Indigenous, but you might not be eligible for Indigenous-specific awards and opportunities that require additional supporting information. The university respects that folks, for many reasons, may choose not to engage with the ICD Policy, and affirms that no one should face discrimination or harassment for this decision.

Q: I still have questions. Who can help me?

A: Please reach out to our friendly team by emailing vpicd@uvic.ca. If you need help with using the ICD Portal or finding your supporting information, a student policy navigator is available to assist during office hours and support events (posted on uvic.ca/ovpi/icd) or during a time convenient for you (for quick chats and longer appointments, please email: carminb@uvic.ca).

